

# Delayed Reporting of Sexual Offenses



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# Why Legislation is Needed

- Jurisdiction of Utah's Juvenile Justice System
  - Any offense committed before age 18
  - Until the a person turns 21 years old
  - Focuses on rehabilitation and therapy
- Utah District Court
  - Offenses occurring before age 18
  - After an individual turns 21
  - Imposes consequences not imposed in juvenile court for youth offenses

# Juveniles Who Offend Sexually

- Sexual behavior is very common among children.
- Research shows that:
  - More than 50% of children will engage in some type of normative sexual behavior before the age of 13
  - Sex play among children may be as high as 80%

# Data Regarding Disclosure

The majority of child sex abuse victims who disclose their abuse delay disclosure until adulthood.

- 31%-41% of child sexual abuse is reported during childhood
- 58%-72% of child sexual abuse is reported during a lifetime
- 60%-70% of adults do not remember ever disclosing their abuse as children

The research shows that due to the nature of child sex abuse disclosure is often a complex and life-long process.

# Goals of Legislation

Allow for an equitable system which addresses and balances:

Delayed disclosure and the fact that juvenile sexual offending is unique from adult sexual offending and therefore the consequences should be as well.

# Proposed Legislation

- Creates sentencing limitations for any sexual offense committed between age 14 and 18 when prosecuted in district court;
  - Unless the charge was transferred from juvenile court
- Changes sex offender registry requirements;
- Assumes probation, unless certain findings are made on the record;
- Limits time frames for incarceration for felony offenses;
- Allows for removal from the registry if previously placed for juvenile offense; and
- Allows for petition for expungement.